



## Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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<b>Event Name</b>	Winter Weather
<b>Date</b>	January 16, 2018
<b>Time</b>	2000 – 0800
<b>Operational Period</b>	January 15, 2018 – January 16, 2018
<b>Report Number</b>	#1

<b>Regions Affected</b>	
<b>DPS Regions Affected</b>	Regions 1, 2 and 6
<b>DDCs Active</b>	4A, 4B, 6, 12, 16B, 18B and 22

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** Numerous school and government offices closed in preparation for the winter weather. As the upper disturbance approaches, precipitation will develop over north Texas. Thereafter, the rain will change to some wintry precipitation as cold air behind a new cold front moves in. The precipitation will likely shift southward behind the front into south central Texas and will extend eastward into northern Louisiana through Tuesday. Current weather models show that the precipitation will end over southeast and deep south Texas and southern Louisiana Tuesday night.

### **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

**NWS Amarillo:** Wind chill values are expected to dip into the five below to 10 below zero range through mid-morning as Arctic air filters into the area. A wind chill advisory has been issued for portions of the northern and eastern Texas Panhandle where winds should stay breezy enough to meet the criteria.

**NWS Austin/San Antonio:** Temperatures will continue to drop into the upper 20s to around 30 for most areas, with mid 20s across the Hill Country. Areas of light precipitation will move southwest to northeast through the morning hours, freezing on many surfaces. Some patches of sleet will also mix in with a possible transition over to patchy light snow before precipitation ends. Favored areas for freezing rain over the next few hours will be from Hondo to San Antonio to Schulenburg and north to a Kerrville to Austin to Giddings line. Precipitation will gradually end from northwest to southeast between noon and 3 PM, possibly linger a little longer across far southeast counties (Karnes, DeWitt, Lavaca) later into the afternoon. Temperatures will not rise

above freezing today for those locations that are already freezing. Far southern areas and along the Rio Grande that are currently in the mid 30s will drop to freezing through the morning with the potential for patchy freezing rain. Wind chill values in the teens to low 20s will continue through today for most areas, with single digit values over the Hill Country.

**NWS Brownsville:** A strong cold front bringing arctic air down to the surface as far south as Brownsville. Conditions will be dangerous for anyone or anything left exposed.

**NWS Corpus Christi:** Strong north winds will occur over the coastal counties into the Victoria Crossroads behind the arctic cold front. North winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts between 40 to 50 mph are expected from early Tuesday morning through the afternoon.

**NWS Fort Worth/Dallas:** Winter Weather Advisory and Winter Storm Warnings remain in effect for parts of North and Central Texas this morning. Some light snow is expected to continue into the morning hours. Although additional accumulations will be light, any snow may cause some icy spots. The Winter Weather Advisory for Bell, Bosque, Hill, Coryell, Fall, and McLennan Counties is in effect until 9 AM and the Winter Storm Warning for areas along and east of a Sulphur Springs to Waxahachie to Mexia to Cameron is in effect until Noon.

**NWS Houston/Galveston:** Light to moderate rain will continue to gradually transition to this wintry mix, with this mix spreading into the Houston metro after sunrise and reaching the coast after noon. Intermittent periods of winter weather will continue throughout the day, ending during the late afternoon through evening hours from north to south. Ice accumulations north of Interstate 10 may range from 0.05-0.1" and south of Interstate 10 may be as high as 0.05". Snow accumulations may be up to 0.5" north of Interstate 10, with accumulations over one inch possible north of a Brenham to Livingston line. North winds will be breezy (10-20 MPH with stronger gusts around 30 MPH inland and 30 to 40 MPH coast). This will result in wind chills falling into the teens area wide by the end of the afternoon. Additionally, should ice begin to accumulate, there may be issues with power lines at these wind speeds. Light to moderate rain will continue to gradually transition to this wintry mix, with this mix spreading into the Houston metro after sunrise and reaching the coast after noon. Intermittent periods of winter weather will continue throughout the day, ending during the late afternoon through evening hours from north to south. Ice accumulations north of Interstate 10 may range from 0.05-0.1" and south of Interstate 10 may be as high as 0.05". Snow accumulations may be up to 0.5" north of Interstate 10, with accumulations over one inch possible north of a Brenham to Livingston line. North winds will be breezy (10-20 MPH with stronger gusts around 30 MPH inland and 30 to 40 MPH coast). This will result in wind chills falling into the teens area wide by the end of the afternoon. Additionally, should ice begin to accumulate, there may be issues with power lines at these wind speeds.

**NWS Midland:** Wind chills in the single digits and teens will occur across southeast New Mexico and west Texas this morning. The Guadalupe Mountains will have wind chills in the single digits below normal.

**NWS San Angelo:** Light sleet and snow will continue for a few hours this morning, mainly east of an Ozona to San Angelo to Brownwood line. Most areas will only see trace amounts. The heaviest precipitation will fall near Junction and Mason.

**NWS Shreveport:** Ongoing winter storm continues across the region. Although most areas are seeing snow, some areas south of I-20 are still seeing a mix of freezing rain, sleet, and snow. The wintry mix will transition to snow later this morning across our southern areas. Meanwhile, our snow is gradually tapering off across our northeastern areas, as the back edge moves

through. Most areas north of I-20 will be done around noon time, with southern areas seeing an end to the snow late this afternoon. Temperatures will remain below freezing through Wednesday afternoon, limiting any melting, and making for very slick roadways. Dangerous wind chills will be possible as well. The threat turns to a hard freeze and dangerous wind chill values tonight.

#### **Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4, 5, 6, and 22)**

**DDC 4 – Hurst** (Includes: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

**DDC 4 – Garland** (Includes: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) has activated their snow and ice plan and is operating maintenance EOC for the duration of the incident.

**DDC 6 – Tyler** (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

**DDC 22 – Sherman** (Includes: Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

#### **Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)**

**DDC 16 – Texas City** (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

#### **Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11/23, 12, 17, and 18)**

**DDC 12 – Austin** (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). A Disaster Declaration has been submitted by Williamson County for winter weather.

**DDC 18 – AARC/Bexar County** (Includes: Atascosa, Bexar, Karnes, McMullen and Wilson Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

### **STATE AGENCY REPORTS TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM):** The State Operations Center conducted a winter weather conference call with selected state emergency management council agencies and National Weather Service Offices at 2:00 PM Monday afternoon. District Coordinators in impacted and potentially impacted areas are coordinating with volunteer agencies, local government agencies and also assisting with coordination of winter weather conference calls.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT crews began pre-treating roads and highways. Currently nine districts are working 24-hour operations in emergency conditions.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD notified Game Wardens statewide and are actively monitoring weather conditions and standing by to provide assistance with high profile and 4 wheel drive vehicles.

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The SOC is at Activation Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) as of 8:00 PM on January 15, 2018. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

Level I (Emergency Conditions)  
Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)  
Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)  
Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the DEM Homepage at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/>*

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*Chief*

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